

*A*¹ 146. (Once Amended) A method of producing a host cell comprising the vector of claim 142, comprising transducing, transforming or transfecting the host cell with said vector.

*A*² 173. (Once Amended) A method of producing a host cell comprising the vector of claim 169, comprising transducing, transforming or transfecting the host cell with said vector.

Please add the following new claim:

--176. A polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide consisting of amino acids +1 to +163 of SEQ ID NO:2, in which 1 or more amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination;

*A*³ (b) a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide consisting of amino acids +1 to +163 of SEQ ID NO:2, in which 1 or more amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination and wherein said polypeptide binds an antibody specific for the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;

(c) a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 which fragment has endothelial cell proliferative activity and in which 1 or more amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination;

(d) a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid fragment of SEQ ID NO:2 which fragment has endothelial cell proliferative activity and in which 1 or more amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination and wherein said polypeptide binds an antibody specific for the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(e) a nucleic acid which is complementary to the nucleic acid of (a), (b), (c),

N^3
cond. or (d).--